

# Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"

President  
Amor "Skip" Portale  
Vice President  
Ellsworth Ott  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Charles "Chick" Kisby



Secretary  
Robert A. Mellon  
Treasurer  
Jaime C. Mellon  
Asst. Sect./Treasurer  
Cindy L. Badger

August 16, 2017

## **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on August 16, 2017 at the Cologne Volunteer Fire Company by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by the Chaplain of the Association, Reverend Thomas Sweeny. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

## **Introduction of Host Chief**

President Portale introduced Chief Shawn Vallauri of the Cologne Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Vallauri welcomed all to Cologne and introduced Fire Company President Sam Squire.

## **In Attendance**

Roll call was taken by Secretary Robert A. Mellon who reported a quorum was present.

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 38 of 176      Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 17 of 44

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2017 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

## **Report of Treasurer**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the report of the Treasurer, totaling \$112,211.86, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Capital One 360 / Parke Bank  
Checking: \$29,876.29 / Savings: \$5,009.77 / Savings: \$53,050.45 / 13 Month CD: \$24,275.35  
Matures 6/13/2018

## **Committee Reports**

**Executive Committee** – Secretary Robert Mellon reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on September 1, 2017 at the Absecon Fire Department.

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board** – Secretary Robert Mellon reported that the next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for September 18, 2017 at the Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center.

**Fire Coordinator** – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent reported that there has been no responses, meetings, or drills since the last meeting. Ed provided an update Tender Task Force Bravo (TTF-B) dispatching issue during the Buffalo Farms fire in Hammonton. Ed reported that the procedures and terminology governing Tender Task Force Bravo (TTF-B) will be updated and followed by some in-service training with the sheriff's department dispatchers to attempt to alleviate and prevent any

further dispatching issues. Ed reported that the FY2017 Homeland Security Grant \$53k spending plan is still under review for approval and the FY2015 and FY2016 spending plans are now closed out. The first FY2018 Homeland Security Grant meeting will be held in September. Ed reported that the local mutual aid plans need to be updated every two years and any changes should be submitted to the county fire coordinator before December 1<sup>st</sup>. The local updates will then be included in the county plan and submitted to the state in early January of 2018. Ed reported that the 255 gallon foam tote in Hammonton has been damaged and will be emptied into five gallon containers for distribution to companies that would like to use it for foam training. Ed reported that the Atlantic City Airshow is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> with a practice day on Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Ed will contact all of the usual departments and companies that provide emergency services support during the show. Ed reminded all that all firefighters assisting with the air show require Firefighter I certification and a photo ID on them. Ed reported that all those interested in being considered for the Atlantic County Fire Coordinator position starting in 2018 need to inform the Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association and seek their support for a recommendation to be made to the Atlantic County Emergency Management Coordinator who will then submit the recommendation to the NJ State Fire Coordinator for approval. Ed reviewed the requirements and the process to be appointed to the position of County Fire Coordinator. Ed reported that the 9/11 memorial registry bill has been signed by the governor and that they are now working on a federal registry bill. Ed reviewed the process that the state will soon undertake to create the registry online and noted that the registry will contain only verified memorials and will provide a reference database in order to avoid potentially fraudulent charitable solicitation requests. Ed reported that the state will allow county fire coordinator radios to be programmed to also operate on the state radio system instead of them carrying a county radio and a state radio and that out of county companies that serve on an Atlantic County task force will have their radios programmed to operate on the Atlantic County radio system. Ed reported that gate 18 at the airport is back in service and should be utilized for any response to the airport. Ed reviewed the resource response procedure for the airport.

**Atlantic County 4H Fair** – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby thanked all those that sent apparatus to the fair and those that helped setup, staff, and breakdown the booth. All went very well and three hundred helmets were distributed to the children. Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that two teams, Germania and Somers Point Station #2, competed in the firefighter competition with the water rocket event being the longest battle ever. They were worried that the tanker may run out of water to keep it going. In the end, Somers Point Station #2 won every category along with being the overall winner. Mike presented Lt. Tim Welsh the trophies for winning the competition. Mike reported that he has spoken with Howard Berchtold about how to get more teams interested in the annual competition. One idea is to host some regional competitions. Oscar Dutch reported that there was great attendance at the fair. President Portale read an email from Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold, who was not in attendance. "I want to thank everyone for one of the most successful 4-H Fair presentations that we have had in recent memory. So many contributed but I need to recognize a few: Dave Buzby for his total commitment from beginning to end. Dave, Oscar Dutch and Ed Vincent for setting up the booth. Dave, Oscar, Dennis Sharpe, Chuck Mackintosh, Ron Bird and Ott's son as the primary booth "staffers." Chief Mackintosh also donated additional handouts for the kids. We pushed this year's NFPA theme of planning escape routes and knowing two ways out. Shout out to all of the departments/companies that displayed apparatus and interacted with the kids. It was the most we have had in years! Thanks to Dennis for coordinating. I know I may miss someone but we had apparatus from Sweetwater, Bayview, Northfield, Mays Landing, Mizpah, Laureldale, Collings Lakes, South Egg Harbor, Richland, Somers Point, Germania, Elwood and West Atlantic City. Thanks to Mike Corbo and all of the instructors for putting on a great competition. We only had two teams but it was a lot of fun. Again, thanks to all! Howard".

**Training** – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that the Fall Firefighter I will start on August 17<sup>th</sup>, with twenty-one students currently registered, and Firefighter II will start on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Three QTO, QSO, ODI classes are scheduled for September and are required for anyone leading company level training at the training center. The full course book is being finalized and will be sent to the printer soon as posted on the website and emailed when completed.

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association** – Butch Kienzle reported on the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association held in Laureldale. Director Vince Jones was in attendance to report on the work being done to correct the issues regarding the dispatching of TTF-B to Hammonton for the Buffalo Farms fire. John J. Heenan, Sr., MS, Assistant Professor / Criminal Justice Program, Criminal Justice Institute, Atlantic Cape Community College (ACCC). John provided information about a new program at the college in partnership with Fairleigh Dickinson University's (FDU) Anthony J. Petrocelli College of Continuing Studies of Administrative Science that is starting Fall Semester 2017. This program will allow for the earning of a Master of Science Homeland Security (MSHS) degree through FDU's School of Administrative Science (SAS) at the ACCC campus for a significant credit cost discount. There was a brief discussion concerning the fate of central dispatch and differing opinions on how strongly the fire chiefs' response was to the demise of the plan. Butch thanked Freeholder John Carman for attending the meeting and for his continued support. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 in Nesco.

**NJ Firemen's Home** – Oscar Dutch thanked all for the support at the caucus to be elected to another four year term representing Atlantic County of the Board of Managers. Oscar reported that meetings are being scheduled to plan for a memory care wing at the home. Oscar reported on some recent excitement at one of the home's BBQs when a bear was spotted by the woods before moving on to a neighboring property. Oscar noted that all is going well, there are currently seventy-six guests at the home, the NJ State Firemen's Association convention will be live streamed both days for the guests, and that anyone wishing to visit the home should contact him.

### **Communications**

There were no communications to report.

### **Deferred Business**

President Portale reported that the firefighter parade drawing for Wildwood was held at the July meeting and that the Egg Harbor Township Fire Department will be leading the Atlantic County unit and carrying the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association banner. President Portale also reminded all the registration with the parade committee is still required for all units that will be participating. <http://www.njfireexpo.com/memorial-parade>

### **New Business**

There was no new business to act on.

### **Bills**

The bills, totaling \$4,834.07, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Brown & Brown - \$1,556.28 (general liability insurance) / Brown & Brown - \$1,072.40 (auto insurance) / Staples - \$124.73 (office supplies) / Home Depot - \$68.18 (training supplies) / Walt's Primo Pizza - \$446.00 (training lunch) / Tri-County - \$1,402.23 (standpipe operation supplies) / Thomas Sweeny - \$164.25 (4h fair firefighter competition trophies)

### **Applications for Membership**

There were no applications for membership.

### **Good of the Order**

Jim Garth reported that Ellsworth Ott is now at Royal Suites, room 212, in Galloway while still recovering.

Dennis Sharpe reported that he has sent photos from the 4H Fair to the secretary to be posted on the Facebook page. Be sure to check them out.

Jim Garth reminded all about the Oddfellows Lodge bus trip to the 9/11 Memorial, FDNY Museum, and dinner on October 14<sup>th</sup>. There are only eleven seats left.

Tom Sweeny reported that due to HIPAA laws, he does not receive information about any firefighters that are currently in the hospital or under home care. If anyone knows of any firefighters currently in the hospital, in rehabilitation, or receiving home care that would like a visit from the Chaplain, please inform Tom.

President Portale wished all safe travels to the NJSFA convention on behalf of himself, the association officers, and the executive committee.

Thank you to the Cologne Volunteer Fire Company for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

## **Adjournment**

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Rev. Thomas Sweeny. There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:50. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on September 20, 2017 at the Hammonton Fire Department Station 1.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

**Fire Department/Company/Association Events**

Fri. Sep. 8, 2017	18:00	Egg Harbor Township	Salute to First Responders Concert @ EHT Community Center
Fri. Sep. 15, 2017	13:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Sep. 16, 2017	10:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Sep. 23, 2017	13:30	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Clam Bake (13:30 - 17:00)
Sun. Oct. 1, 2017	10:00	Northfield FD	2nd Annual Classic Car Show (@ Sta. 2 Burton Ave. - 10:00 - 14:00)
Sat. Oct. 7, 2017	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner (16:00 - 19:30)
Sat. Oct. 14, 2017	09:00	New York City	Odd Fellows 9/11 Museum and NYC Fire Museum Bus Trip
Sat. Oct. 28, 2017	08:00	Elwood VFC @ Mays Landing Country Club	16th Annual William Kennedy Memorial Golf Tournament
Sat. Nov. 11, 2017	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com

**ACFFA Meetings****Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

Wed. Sep. 20, 2017	20:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Oct. 18, 2017	20:00	Dorothy VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Nov. 15, 2017	20:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 20, 2017	20:00	Farmington VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jan. 17, 2018	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 21, 2018	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee**

Fri. Sep. 1, 2017	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Nov. 3, 2017	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Jan. 5, 2018	19:30	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting (Annual Reorganization)

**Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings****Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board**

Mon. Sep. 18, 2017	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Nov. 13, 2017	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Jan. 8, 2018	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association**

Wed. Sep. 13, 2017	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Oct. 11, 2017	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Nov. 8, 2017	19:30	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Dec. 13, 2017	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Tues. Jan. 23, 2018	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
February 2018			NO MEETING

**Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.**

Thurs. Aug. 17, 2017 (new date)	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Jan. 25, 2018	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Jul. 26, 2018	19:30	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association